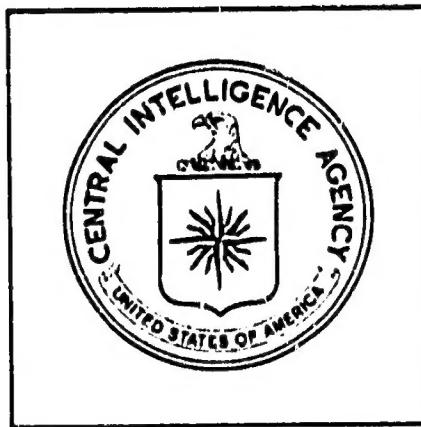


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## STAFF NOTES:

# Soviet Union Eastern Europe

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## **SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE**

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East Germany:  
Honecker Rules Out Reunification

Party chief Honecker on Wednesday threw cold water on any domestic hopes for reunification with West Germany. His remarks were published in an interview in the party daily following his return from the European security summit meeting in Helsinki.

In his speech in Helsinki, Honecker did not even mention the provision for peaceful change of boundaries contained in the CSCE declaration, but in the interview he categorically ruled out its application to East Germany. The provision, he stated, "has no practical significance for the GDR, since we have no border problems whatsoever with our neighbors, including the capitalist states, and since socialism and capitalism can never be united."

Honecker undoubtedly intended this strong statement to head off rising popular East German expectations about inter-German relations, particularly expanded East-West contacts, which the security conference has triggered [redacted]. Hopes about these and other humanitarian points outlined in the CSCE agreement probably were fanned by the regime's publication of the declaration in *Neues Deutschland* last weekend.

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Czechoslovakia: Hopes for Improved Relations with Washington

High-ranking Czechoslovak officials have seized on Foreign Minister Chnoupek's talks in Helsinki with Secretary Kissinger to express a cautious optimism for improved bilateral relations in spite of the trade bill issue.

Foreign Minister Chnoupek, fresh from his meeting with the Secretary, told the party daily, *Rude Pravo*, that "Czechoslovak-American relations are receiving a new impulse after a period of certain hesitation." Agreement was reached at Helsinki, he added, that the trade act should not constitute a "general barrier."

State planning chief Hula, a recent addition to the party Presidium (Politburo), added another note of optimism. When he heard US-Czechoslovak relations described as "in a holding pattern," Hula objected to the phrase, noting that the Czechoslovaks hope to see a "spiral upward," not a static hold.

The Czechs still regard the trade bill issue as the ultimate key to better relations, but these remarks suggest that Prague may soon probe for improved ties with Washington while it awaits forward movement on the trade bill.

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